

HISTORY OF IBERO-AMERICAN MATHEMATICS

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A one-semester course on the history of mathematics has been offered at the junior-senior level of undergraduates at the State University of Campinas, Brazil. In 1979 a new version of the course was designed to present an overall view of mathematical activities in Portugal and Spain during the discovery of America, building up to a critical view of contemporary mathematical development in Latin America.

The course is scheduled to run for about 45 hours and covers the following:

1. Mathematics in the Iberian peninsula in the 13th, 14th, and 15th centuries; the Arabic influence; a critical comparison with the other countries of Europe; socioeconomic development in the Iberian peninsula in the epoch of the discoveries.
2. Mathematics, astronomy, science and technology of the Inca, Maya, and Aztec societies; social and economic conditions in the Iberian peninsula around 1500.
3. Mathematics in the Iberian peninsula following the discovery of America; Jesuit influences; socioeconomic conditions from the 16th to the 18th centuries.
4. The establishment of universities in Latin America during the 16th and 17th centuries; mathematics in these universities; the sociocultural and economic development of the colonies.
5. The movement for Independence (1800-1830); the training of the leadership for Independence; strategies for Independence.
6. Mathematics in Brazil during the Empire period (1822-1889); the newly founded faculties of Law and Medicine, and Military Schools; the influence of Positivism; the proclamation of the Republic in Brazil (1889) and Comte's influence.
7. Mathematics in Brazil in the Republic (1889-1950).

We invite the participation of other universities in Latin America in following a similar pattern in designing courses on the *History of Latin American Mathematics*, properly adapting 6 and 7 to the post-Independence times. In connection with this, we propose to hold a Symposium on the History of Mathematics in Latin America. A possible agenda for the Symposium would be items 1 through 7, with the understanding that 6 and 7 would be focused on different countries or regions. Topics 1 through 5 would be presented in a panel form.

The lack of reference material for this area of study is a serious handicap for courses and research. It is hoped that the *Proceedings* of the Symposium will be suitable for such courses

and that the source material, conveniently indexed, will provide a guide for future research in this area.

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MEETINGS

In this department every effort is made to publish timely announcements of future meetings, as well as reports of events and papers presented at past meetings. For this we rely on the organizers of meetings to send us announcements as early as possible, and on colleagues in each country to send us reports of local activities in the history of mathematics. Unnecessary duplication may be avoided by checking with the editor or the nearest member of the International Commission listed on the back cover of Historia Mathematica before submitting reports to this department.

WORKSHOP ON THE SOCIAL HISTORY OF MATHEMATICS

From July 5 to 8, 1979, a meeting was held in West Berlin on the social history of 19th-century mathematics. The workshop was organized by the Institut für Philosophie, Wissenschaftstheorie, Wissenschafts- und Technikgeschichte of the Technische Universität Berlin and sponsored by the Stiftung Volkswagenwerk and Project PAREX, a European programme of cooperative research in the social studies of science. Participants came from Canada, Denmark, France, Italy, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, the United States, and West Germany. They represented the fields of history of mathematics and physics, pedagogy of mathematics, philosophy, and the sociology of science.

The workshop was the third in a series of meetings [1] sponsored by Project PAREX, and devoted to the sociology and social history of mathematics. The purpose of the meeting was to promote the discussion--in a large, interdisciplinary group--of the subject, methods, and results of the social history of mathematics and to attempt the development of a perspective for future research and cooperation. Since much current research is strongly concentrated on mathematics in the 19th century, the workshop was devoted to this period.

Besides a survey lecture, given by Dirk J. Struik (MIT), "Mathematics in the Early 19th Century," the following papers were presented:

H. Mehrtens: Social History of Mathematics: Some Remarks on Problems and Methods